

In re Patent Application of
GREGG
Serial No. Not Yet Assigned
Filed: Herewith

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Related Applications

The present application is a continuation of Serial No. 10/079,732 filed February 21, 2002, which is a divisional of patent application serial no. 09/680,720 filed on October 6, 2000 which is based upon U.S. provisional patent application serial no. 60/158,172 filed ~~October 6~~ October 7, 1999, the entire disclosures of which ~~is~~ are incorporated herein by reference.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Unfortunately, conventional cementitious backerboards may be more difficult to score and break to size. Moreover, since the backerboards include a core of cement, their density is considerably greater than even conventional gypsum [gypsym] wallboard. Accordingly, manufacturers may offer the backerboards in smaller sizes to be more readily handled by the installer, but such increases seams between sheets and also increases costs of installation. A typically-sized 4 foot by 8 foot sheet can weigh well over 100 pounds, which is very unwieldy especially in confined spaces.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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--Aerated concrete may be used in the form of panels or individual building blocks. It has been used for residences; commercial, industrial and agricultural buildings; schools; hospitals; etc. and is a good material in most all climates. Panels or blocks may be joined together using common mortar or thin set glue mortar or adhesive. Aerated concrete has durability similar to conventional concrete or stone and a workability perhaps better than wood. The material can be cut or sawn and readily receives expandable fasteners. Aerated concrete has a thermal insulation [conductivity] six to ten times better than conventional concrete. The material is also non-rotting, non-toxic and resistant to termites.-

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A variation of this method embodiment is now explained with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 11. In this embodiment, prime notation is used to [indicated] indicate similar steps which need no further explanation. In accordance with the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 11, the body is divided[, but not separated or cut,] into sheets at Block 105, and is then cured at Block 107. Thereafter, the cured sheets are used as the core material and to which the face layer(s) are secured as described above. This embodiment may offer the advantage of slightly easier cutting of the body, since it has not been fully cured; however, the ultimate dimensional accuracy of the sheets may be less compared to first curing the body and then cutting the body into cured

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sheets. Of course, a combination of some cutting or shaping before curing and further cutting or shaping after curing are also contemplated by the present invention.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Referring now to the flowchart of FIG. 13, yet another embodiment of the method is now described. This embodiment is directed to a more continuous manufacturing operation. More particularly, from the start (Block 150) the materials for making aerated concrete are dispensed in slurry form onto at least one face layer (Block 152), typically as the face layer is advanced along a conveyor, for example. The slurry may alternatively be dispensed [dispensed] onto a surface, e.g. a stainless steel surface, instead of directly onto the face layer. The dwell time on the conveyor may desirably be sufficient to allow the materials to rise and stiffen, and optionally cured, (Block 154) before cutting into final lengths (Block 156). Thereafter, the sheets may be packaged and shipped at Block 158 before stopping (Block 160). Of course in other embodiments, it is also possible to cut the core material before final curing. This may be especially desirably where conventional autoclave curing is performed which may require a relatively long dwell time in the heated chamber. However, other curing techniques, such as the addition of microwave radiation are also contemplated which may provide for near continuous curing of the core material as will also be appreciated by those skilled in the art.--

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 23,
line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Turning now briefly to FIG. 16 a variation of the former embodiment described above will now be described. In this embodiment of the former 220', the body 242' is cut or divided into sheets 244' before positioning in the autoclave 243'. As discussed above, while the cutting may be somewhat easier, and a more simple wire saw ~~249'~~ 249 may be used, the resulting dimensions of the sheets may not be as accurate. This embodiment does, however, avoid the need for higher temperature compatible/resistant face layers. Of course, combinations of pre-cure and post-cure shaping of the core material may also be used.--